

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-2 (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A mosaic polypeptide comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV NS3 protein consisting of amino acid residues 1471-1573 of the HCV polyprotein set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

4 - 16 (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) An assay for detecting HCV in a biological sample comprising combining the biological sample with an HCV reagent for a sufficient amount of time under conditions to form an analyte-antibody complex and detecting the complex, wherein the HCV reagent is a mosaic polypeptide comprising an antigenic epitope of the NS3 protein, wherein the antigenic epitope of the NS3 protein consists of amino acid residues 1471-1573 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein detection of the analyte-antibody complex indicates that the biological sample contains HCV.

18 - 23 (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) An immunogenic composition comprising an immunogenic amount of a mosaic polypeptide of claim [[9]]3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. (currently amended) The immunogenic composition of Claim 24 wherein the mosaic polypeptide further comprises one or more antigenic epitopes of the HCV NS5a protein selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:1), amino acid residues 1789-1867 of the HCV polyprotein

(SEQ ID NO:3), amino acid residues 1916-1948 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:4)
and amino acid residues 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:5).

26-39 (canceled)

40. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]The mosaic polypeptide of claim 3, comprising an isolated antigenic epitope of HCV comprising~~ amino acid residues of the HCV polyprotein wherein the amino acid sequence ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~comprises SEQ ID NOS:1-5.

41 – 42 (cancelled)

43. (previously presented) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the mosaic polypeptide is not the HCV polyprotein.

44. (cancelled)

45. (new) The mosaic polypeptide of Claim 3, further comprising one or more antigenic epitopes selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:1), amino acid residues 1789-1867 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:3), amino acid residues 1916-1948 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:4) and amino acid residues 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:5).

46. (new) The assay of claim 17, wherein the mosaic polypeptide further comprises one or more antigenic epitopes selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 1-91 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:1), amino acid residues 1789-1867 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:3), amino acid residues 1916-1948 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:4) and amino acid residues 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein (SEQ ID NO:5).